

Application No. 10/620,368
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated February 1, 2005
Reply to the Office Action of November 2, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A tubular label fitting apparatus for containers which has a plurality of sets of label fitting heads arranged at even intervals on ~~the~~ an outer perimeter of a main turret,

wherein each label fitting head comprises a container table, a container presser bar means that applies a pressing force against ~~the~~ a top of a container supported by said container table, and ~~[[an]]~~ a label holding means; and

wherein ~~the~~ rotation of said main turret causes said container presser bar means to lower and pass through a tubular label held by the label holding means, and to apply a pressing force against a container supplied by the container table such that the container is sandwiched between the container table and the container presser bar means, and in this condition said container is transferred in an axial direction relative to the label holding means such that the label is fitted on the container.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The tubular label fitting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a label held by ~~[[a]]~~ the label holding means is fitted on ~~[[a]]~~ the container by moving vertically the container table and the container presser bar means in a synchronized manner under

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~~the~~ a condition in which a bottle is sandwiched between the container table and the container presser bar means.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The tubular label fitting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a label is fitted on a container sandwiched between the container table and the container presser bar means by moving the label holding means vertically.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The tubular label fitting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said container presser bar means comprises a container presser bar body, and a label attitude control element that is provided on ~~the~~ a bottom portion of said container presser bar body and has an outer diameter that is larger than ~~the~~ a diameter of said container presser bar body and smaller than ~~the~~ a diameter of a fitting label.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The tubular label fitting apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said label attitude control element comprises an attitude control element body that engages with a label and a container pressing head that abuts against the top of ~~[[a]]~~ the container, and the container pressing head is designed to be capable of cushioning in relation to the attitude control element body.

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Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The tubular label fitting apparatus according to claim 4,
wherein said attitude control element body comprises ~~at the bottom edge thereof~~ a
plurality of splined grooves ~~divided~~ formed at a bottom portion thereof and separated in a
circumferential direction, and

said container pressing head comprises on ~~the~~ an outer perimeter thereof a plurality of
ridges that engage with the splined grooves of the attitude control element body, and further
comprises a container abutting section on ~~the~~ a lower edge surface thereof; and

~~and wherein a taper is formed from said ridges to~~ a lower portion of said container
pressing head is tapered, the narrowest end of the taper formed at the container abutting section.

Claim 7 (New): A label fitting apparatus for fitting a label on a container, comprising:
a main turret including a label fitting head, the label fitting head comprising,
a container table to support the container;
a container presser bar to apply a pressing force against a top of the container
supported by the container table; and
a label holder to hold the label,
wherein the main turret is operably connected to the container presser bar and the
container table such that rotation of the main turret causes the container presser bar to lower and
pass through a label held by the label holder to apply a pressing force against a container
supported by the container table, and causes the container table and label holder to move in an
axial direction relative to each other such that the label is fitted on the container.